

5/10/70

Dear Dick,

Two straight 90-degree days, two more forecast, and I've not been able to deleaf the pool yet! I've had other outside things I've had to do, like planting 85 narcissi today, which sure worked up a sweat.

Thanks for the clips. You are confused. 1984 began in 1963.

Have you heard from Mayhew? Do you think you should write him about me or I should for me?

Penn gets more incredible weekly. Now he improves on Skolnick, whose "tireless" work began sometime after 2/7/70, when he didn't even know the names of the books that had been published critical of the Report. And Bolden was assigned to watch Vallee, a name of which he never heard until the past month or so!

There was no Boston Globe story enclosed, but don't worry about it because I haven't time to follow it up. There will be another Orwell, US model.

Handwritten letter: Bow St notes are British Press Assn copy.

I've thought much of Ray's denial he said, "Oh, God..." and finally decided we'll never get to the bottom of it and am inclined to attribute this to either unclear recall on either or both parts or Ray's jailbird's concept of law. Had I been in his position, I'd have felt trapped-by my associates and the situation as well as by the authorities.

Despite everything, I think the man arrested is Ray, the real one.

The inspector, by the way, has passed on to his reward.

If you want, we can explore the "Oh God" bit more. At the time he was picked up, however, do you think it possible he felt someone had tipped off the police or instructed him to do what would cause his apprehension?

No matter how much we do for him, I do not expect Ray to open up at least for a while. Thus, I'm not pressing anything. I've been silent about winning the suit, about which I also ask you to, for there are special reasons for which there now is no time. And they haven't delivered the stuff yet. When they do, I do have some plans-not for the release of all of it, however. Incredible as it may seem, since I didn't have it, the essence and most of the detail is already in COUP. (Bows to left and right)

Gurriedly,